procedural requirements involved, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time-frame for these amendments.

Cheating in the name of jobs abroad

†1265. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad has come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the said gang; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government do not have any specific information about any gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad. However, sporadic complaints against unregistered agents/individuals are received in this regard. As and when such complaints are received, show-cause notices are issued and complaints are lodged with the local police authorities for taking action against the unscrupulous agents/individuals. The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to maintain strict vigil against nefarious activities of unscrupulous agents. In case of complaints against Registered Recruiting Agents, show-cause notices are issued to the Agents and in case the reply is not found covincing, the licence of the Recruiting Agent is Suspended/Cancelled.

Increase in Unemployment

1266. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of unemployed persons during the year 2000-2001 in comparison to 1999 and the details of skilled,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.